

September 16, 1953

Dr. J. L. Howatt  
Drawer 940  
Department of Agriculture  
Fredericton, N.B., Canada

Dear Dr. Howatt:

May I acknowledge, with my apologies, your letter of August 6 requesting a proline-dependent mutant of *Escherichia coli*? Your letter arrived while I was away on vacation, and this is the first opportunity I have had since my return to write in reply.

We have a number of proline mutants stored in lyophil, and during the next two or three weeks I will try to find time to get one out and check its requirement to send it to you. If you would be content with a double mutant requiring methionine + proline, or glycine + proline, or histidine + proline, I could send one of these more promptly as they are in open stock.

I am surprised you should have had to initiate an extensive search of the continent for such a mutant, as I am sure that similar stocks are available from the laboratories of, e.g., E.L. Tatum, B.D. Davis, D.M. Bonner, F.J. Ryan, J.S. Gots, M. Demerec, E. Adelberg, and others.

If your requirement has already been filled from another quarter by this time, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics